

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above-identified patent application has been reviewed in light of the Examiner's Action dated March 22, 2007. Claims 2, 5, and 8 have been amended and Claims 1, 3, and 4 have been deleted without intending to abandon or to dedicate to the public any patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Claims 2 and 5-9 are now pending. As set out more fully below, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The aspects of the independent claims found to be indefinite, namely the language surrounding the various recitations of "hinge means" and "the door leaf," have been revised. Accordingly, Applicant believes that the claims are no longer indefinite and the rejections of those claims should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3, and 4 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable either over Merrill et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,040,806) or over Dixon et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,348,628) in view of Merrill et al. Claims 1, 3, and 4 have been canceled thereby rendering the rejections of those claims moot.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 2 and 5-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In the amendments set forth above, Claims 2, 5, and 8 have been placed in independent form as suggested by the Office Action. Therefore, the rejections of Claims 2, 5, and 8 and the claims dependent therefrom should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Application No. 10/672,105
Atty. Docket No. 4458WL-4

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Date: June 22, 2007